GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:214
ANSWERED ON:06.08.2001
IMPORT AND USE OF MERCURY
P.R. KHUTE;PUNNULAL MOHALE

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

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(a) the quantity of Mercury imported and used by each Mercury Cell Plants manufacturing Caustic Soda in the country during the last three years; (

(b) the manner in which it has been disposed of in water and air; (

(c) whether its disposal has been made in accordance with the environmental standards; and (

(d) if not, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU)

(a) As per information made available by Directorate General ofForeign Trade, Ministry of Commerce and Industry,the quantity of mercury imported during the last three years is as under:

Year	Mercury imported (in tonnes)
1998-99	125
1999-00	207
2000-01	251

Total Mercury consumption in production of caustic soda during the last three years is as under:

Year	Quantity consumed (in tonnes)
1998-99	36
1999-00	33.3
2000-01	34.1

(b), (c) & (d) The mercury bearing waste water is treated through precipitation / adsorption / ion - exchange techniques in order to meet the standards laid down by the Central Pollution Control Board. The mercury bearing emissions such as hydrogen and hydrochloric acid vapours are scrubbed to maintain the level of mercury within the prescribed limit. As per information, all the Chlor-alkali plants in operation have provided the requisite pollution control systems.